

St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / www.ourstjameschurch.org/

News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter
March 2019
Volume 4, Issue 3

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I love March if for no other reason than it's the month that officially starts spring, even though it may not feel like it.

Many of us struggle to get through winter and what has seemed like endless cold, grey days of winter. Just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the drive way looking at my muddy dormant gardens and I felt the warm sunshine on my face for a few moments but then again today the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had even though I knew in my heart there is more than a little winter left. That is what I like about March. Somehow, we know that regardless of what winter weather is left to come that spring will not be denied. I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. And various church members keeping me posted on robin sightings. There is hope.

There is hope and preparation for greater things to come. That is what this month in the church calendar is about as well. This year March is full of Lent starting March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Lent provides us a wonderful opportunity to consider and pray about how we can get closer to being the person God would have us to be and to consider what it is God would have us to do.

Many consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days, but I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called to spend time considering our own ministry. I encourage us all to use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I invite you not to simply give up something but to take time to prepare your spirit for an exciting new journey. Here are a couple suggestions. Spend an extra few minutes each day in prayer and meditation.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 3 - Communion Sunday 9am & Discretionary Fund
- ◆ March 6 - Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner 6pm - Service 7pm
- ◆ March 12 - Council Meeting 7pm
- ◆ March 13 -Lenten Discussion Group 7pm
- ◆ March 16 - Euchre 6:30pm
- ◆ March 17 - Communion Sunday 9am
- ◆ March 20 - Lenten Discussion Group 7pm
- ◆ March 23 - Corn Beef Dinner Prep 9:30am
- ◆ March 24 - Corn Beef Dinner - Perch Point 4pm
- ◆ March 27 - Lenten Discussion Group 7pm
- ◆ March 31 - Healing Service 9am

Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room or Daily Bread every morning with your coffee (it's only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit an anonymous daily and intentional act of kindness, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you. Again, I encourage you to not just "give up" something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit.

Although most of us think of Lent as not an uplifting time of year I would like us to think about Lent the same way gardeners think about March. It is a time of thinking, planning, and preparing for spring. It is a time of great anticipation. We dream about and prepare for new growth in our gardens, we remember projects from last year that we want to finish, we sharpen our tools and start ordering seed. We remember the exciting successes of springs past and prepare to start this spring full of expectation and optimism.

This is my vision for us. As we begin our journey into Lent, let us not think of this as a season of spiritual winter but rather a time of preparing for our own spiritual spring, both personally and as a community of faith.

Remember, whoever you are and wherever you are at on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. And there is a place for you here.

Prayers for....



Karen Marie
Sue
Rich
Maraleen
Clark
Tony
Baby Charlee
Trudy
Amy
Sharon
Linda
Sallie
Russell

George
David
Deborah
Lynn
Johnnie
Peggy
Joanne
Claudette
Lorene
Russell
Dorothy
Russ
Darrell

Outreach Ministry

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Twin/Full sheets, Diapers all sizes, wipes, towels, hats and gloves, boots, and winter clothes 3T- 14

Other Needs: new toys, toddler sheets, blankets, fabric softener sheets, HE laundry soap, cribs, and high chairs

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

B-WARM NEEDS

Cleaning supplies: Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dish washing detergent, bathroom cleansers.

Paper products: paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and kleenex

Men's clothing: sweatshirts, coats, and jackets.

Hygiene Items: shaving cream, disposable razors, deodorants, shampoo

Special needs: van, volunteers to make telephone calls, grant writer, part time cook, someone who can assist in sewing projects

St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

Current Needs: pancake mix, syrup, jams and jellies, and boxed potatoes

The Discretionary Fund March 3, 2019

Did you know this fund is utilized to aid with rent, utilities, medical supplies, food and transportation to doctors, etc.?

This is generated from the loose change collected the first Sunday of each month. Please empty your pockets and change purses that day to meet the needs of our church and community.

Happy Birthdays in March

3 – Taylor Lindke
4 – Cindy Maddelein
12 – Becky Pittman
12- Nancy Uppleger
13 - Josh Mahnke
15 – Josh Mahnke
18 - Amy Klomp
21 – Dan Klomp
24 - Kayla Wendt
25 – Hunter Wendt
30 – Don Robertson

Worship Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

Ash Wednesday Potluck dinner 6pm at St. James, bring a soup, salad or sandwiches to share, Service at 7pm.

Lenten Discussion Group

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27th and April 3rd. The subject is Spiritual Gifts. Discussion Group meetings will begin at 7pm at St. John's.

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.

Bottle / Can Collection

We are collecting empty and clean bottles and cans with a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program. Please bring them to church, there is a box in the basement, back room, by the door for them.

Anniversaries in March

7 – Frank & Judy Tringali
16 – Cindy & Dan Klomp
17 – Collen & Rusty Stover

Earthly Gifts

The February Budget was \$5852.00 and only \$3856.00 was received. Please do what you can to help St. James meet its financial obligations.



Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.

PFC Shane David Kinney Army Airborne

Roof Collection

As of last Sunday balance to be repaid to the investment fund remains at \$13,050.93 . If you desire to help reimburse the fund just mark your regular giving envelope how much of your total donation should to the "ROOF FUND" or place it in the small envelopes provided in the pew marking it "ROOF" and deposit in the collection plate.

**St. James UCC Casco
Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**

Honoring our own St. Pat (Pat Bandlow)

Sunday, March 24th, at 4:00 p.m.

Perch Point Conservation Club, Meisner Rd.

Adults: \$12 for dinner and cookies
Children under 12: Free with good will offering

Cash bar available
Raffles* 50/50* Bake Sale

**For reservations, please call
(586) 719-5314**



St. Patrick's Day Poem



Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. Our goal is to fill 100 tote bags by November 11, 2019 without running out of items. **March 2019 collection is hygiene items such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, dental floss, headbands, barrettes and bows, soap, washcloths.** Items accepted anytime are: hat, gloves, socks, toys, school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, small note books, glue, crayons), socks (All Men, Women and Children - all sizes

Ministry Needing Helpers!!!!

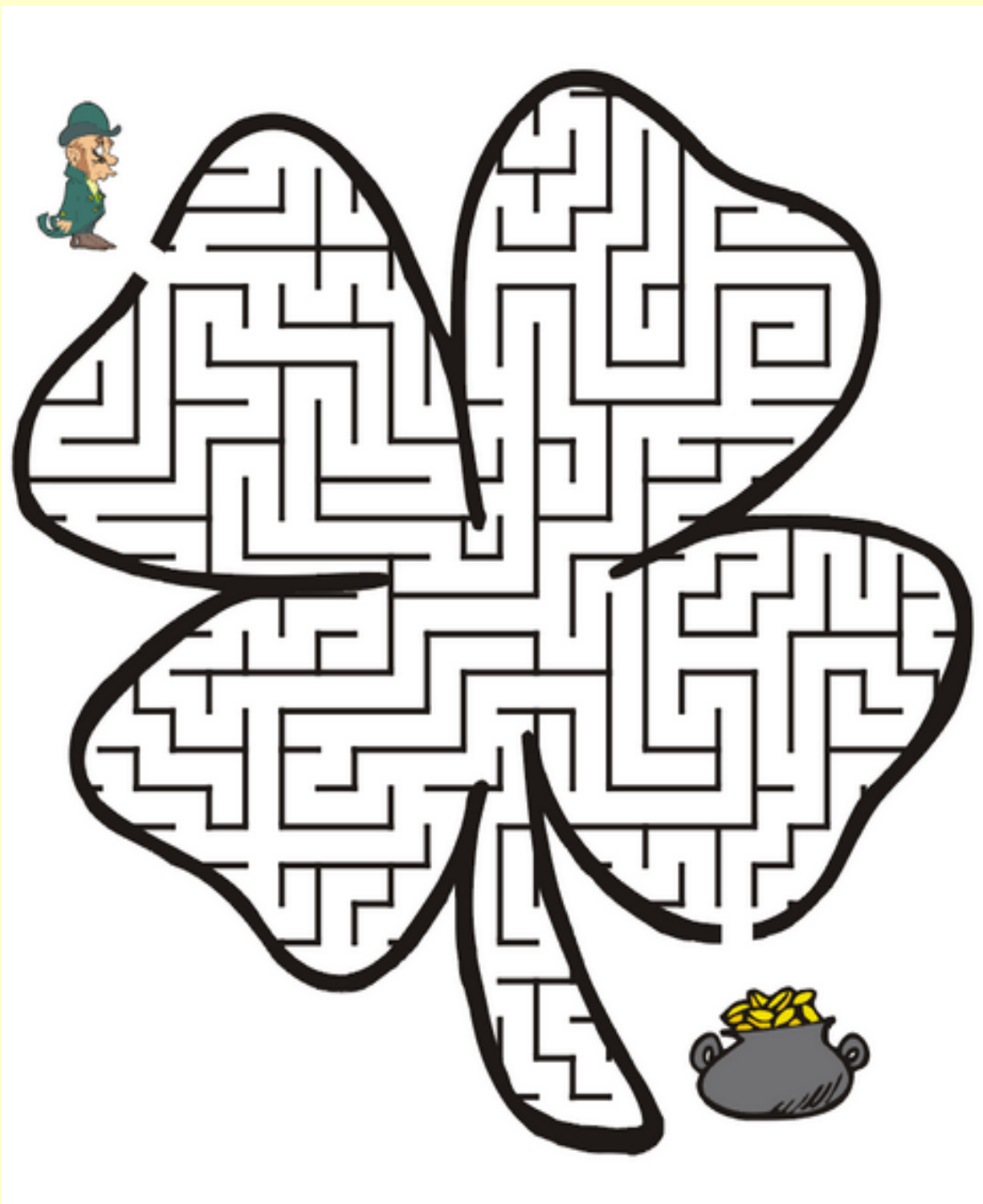
Members are needed to take the items received for donation to B-Warm, Kids-In-Distress and Richmond Food Pantry (St. Augustine). As you see the boxes/tubs getting full please feel free to help in this ministry by taking the items to the designated places. **Call first**, to make sure they are open for deliveries.

B-Warm	Kids-In-Distress	Richmond Food Pantry
1920 24th St	Bev & Gordie Kulman	St. Augustine
Port Huron, MI 48060	1114 S 7th St	68035 Main St
(810) 956-0768	St. Clair, MI 48079	Richmond, Mi 48062
	(810) 326-4505	(586) 727-5215

Giving Tree

The Christmas Tree in the church basement has been left up in order to collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs and socks for the Christmas Tote Bags that we fill in November. Please give generously. When we have enough of the items then we can take the tree down.

Kid's Page



Altar Care

March - Betty & Don Robertson

Communion Servers

Preparer: Open
Communion Servers: Open

Ushers & Greeters

March 3 - Open
March 10 - Open
March 17 - Open
March 24 - Open
March 31 - Open

Liturgists

March 3 - Open
March 10 - Open
March 17 - Open
March 24 - Open
March 31 - Open

Scripture Readings for March

Sunday, March 3
Transfiguration
Ex 34: 29-35
Ps 99
2 Cor 3: 12-4:2
Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a)
Astounding Glory

Sunday, March 17
Second Sunday of Lent
Gen 15: 1-2, 17-18
Ps 27
Phil 3: 17-4:1
Luke 13: 31-35 or Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a)
Strong and Tender

Sunday, March 31
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Josh 5: 9-12
Ps 32
2 Cor 5: 16-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Embracing Love

Sunday, March 10
First Sunday of Lent
Deut 26: 1-11
Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16
Rom 10: 8b-13
Luke 4: 1-13
Wilderness Companions

Sunday, March 24
Third Sunday of Lent
Isa 55: 1-9
Ps 63: 1-8
1 Cor 10: 1-13
Luke 13: 1-9
Open Invitation



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MARCH NEWSLETTER